



THE JEWISH DAILY

**FORWARD**

SEPTEMBER 1981

שַׁעַר זָהָב

ELUL 5741/TISHRI 5742

## A HOME OF OUR OWN!!

### Chapter 3

As our building campaign brochure says, after four years of wandering, our Congregation is faced with the happy task of finding a permanent home . . . and we are slowly, but surely moving in that direction.

The leading candidate for our new home is the historic and beautiful old building at Bush and Laguna Streets, which is crying for rehabilitation and restoration as a synagogue and community center. It is an exciting project for the lesbian and gay Jewish community.

Obviously, nothing can be done without that castigated, but necessary, substance called money. Under Walt Leiss's able leadership as general chair of the campaign to raise funds for a new building, we are forging ahead.

Several committees have been hard at work for weeks. The Building Committee headed by Alan Schrager and Cheryl Orvis has been meeting regularly and doing heavy duty research into available sites and buildings. Mike Rankin and Irene Ogus headed a committee which did a careful and detailed analysis of the financial picture and developed a guide for rational giving. Ron Wolberg and Charles Norton and their Research Committee have nearly doubled the list of potential members and contributors with help from those of us who responded to their questionnaire. The Dedication Committee, headed by Ellis

Jacobs and Gordon Osser, did yeoman work in developing a list of "honorials and memorials" whereby contributors can honor friends and relatives.

Cathy Nelson, Mike Abbott and Mark Feldman have been responsible for all the excellent publicity and printed materials. Harry Lutrin and Nancy Meyer have headed an active Special Events Committee, which arranged for our bus trip to visit other recently built synagogues and are now engaged in organizing a series of home parties which make the giving money away a happy and pleasant event. Several home parties have been scheduled and every congregant will be invited to at least one of these events.

Results: FANTASTIC! Gifts have ranged from \$300 to \$36,000, with most coming in four and five figures. We have commitments for well over \$100,000 and by the time you read this we expect to be over \$150,000 and well on our way to the projected total of \$300,000, with the possibility that we may reach \$500,000.

Results depend on each member or friend of the Congregation stretching for this once-in-a-lifetime contribution. Actually, it is three gifts in one, since it is payable over a three year period.

History is being made in the Bay Area. Our brothers and sisters all over the country -- indeed, all over the world -- are watching closely. Our success depends on you -- and you -- and you -- and on our willingness to share. We're counting on all of us . . .



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As the High Holidays approach, it is customary to look inward, to review our actions of the year and make commitments to ourselves for the new year. This process of reflection and renewal is an important part of our religious and cultural legacy. It charges us with self commitment and the responsibility for our own actions.

Active participation in congregational programming and activities is not for everyone. Enjoyment, fellowship and the satisfaction of participation does not meet the needs of all of our members. While understanding the truth of my own statements, as president, I must be concerned with the quality of congregational life. I appreciate the importance of the decisions we each will make when completing our new dues pledges based on the "fair share" program.

Our financial responsibilities as an organization are based on our membership supporting the "fair share" plan, but this alone is not enough. A commitment of time, energy, enthusiasm and idealism, or any combination of these, will enable us to serve each other and our communities more effectively. When called upon to participate and be "active," please reflect on how proud you want to feel about our accomplishments and successes.

Sha'ar Zahav is a non-traditional congregation, serving a community forgotten and uncared for. By becoming members of this particular congregation, each of us has chosen to be part of a movement of renewal.

A renewal which will enable us to be proud: as Jews, of our rich and varied heritage; as lesbians and gay men, of our lifestyles and sexuality; as members of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, of our building a new home filled with the sights and sounds of happy, fulfilled and loving men and women.

Renewal requires self,  
Self requires reflection,  
Reflection begets commitment,  
Commitment is renewal.

Paul J. Cohen



## VA'AD REPORT

The large number of members who fulfilled their dues pledges have put the Congregation in a comfortable financial position, Treasurer Irene Ogus indicated at August's Va'ad (Board) meeting. This positive news set the tone for a productive meeting, the first with President Paul Cohen at the helm.

Coordinators Linda M. and Michael Freedland reported that several committee chair positions remain unfilled—Program, Social Action, and Education. (Interested persons should phone the Congregation.)

Plans were discussed for the Va'ad "Advance"—a September weekend at the Russian River for committee chairs, Va'ad members, and "significant others." The "Advance" is intended to bring together those people who will be working with one another this year, to build understanding, gain familiarity, and have fun in the process.

The High Holy Days signal the start of Sha'ar Zahav's new membership year, and the membership committee reviewed its plans for new informational materials. Rabbi Bennett reported on his recent travels abroad and within this country (participation in the recent MCC biennial conference), and Aaron Cooper reviewed Ways and Means Committee fundraising activities—Castro Street Fair and Pre-Holiday Art Fair, in particular.

With September's Va'ad meeting incorporated into the Russian River "Advance," the next Va'ad meeting open to all members of Congregation will be Sunday, October 11, at Mike Rankin's home, 556 Encina Avenue, Menlo Park, phone 366-1449, between 5-8 P.M. Members are cordially invited to attend.



completely honest. And we need to remind ourselves that, before we are harsh with others for their apparent shortcomings, we should closely examine our own supply of faults. For while it is true that we believe that God is the final Judge and Arbiter of the rights and wrongs of the universe, we know that we, too, make judgements, often knowing less than God does about what we are judging, and therefore more often making less appropriate judgements than might be desirable.

At Sha'ar Zahav, we form a community which has traditionally been a "judged community." Often, based on nothing more than knowledge of someone's affectional orientation, others judge us wholly, as if our professional competence were connected with it, or as if our parenting skills were connected with it. How much more, then, should we be aware of how destructive harsh, uninformed, or biased judgements can be. And how much the less, then, should we be judging others without first giving them the benefit of the doubt.

As we approach the High Holy Days, as we take stock of our various ways of fitting into the universe, we should remember that we are taught, "Judge not, lest ye be judged." And if we find ourselves forced into making a judgement of others, remember two things: First, that our tradition urges us always to give someone the benefit of the doubt, and, second, that we, as well, are about to be judged by the Omniscient. If the roles were reversed, how would we do?

- Rabbi Allen B. Bennett

For many of us, who would have wanted to live more open, less secretive lives, we should think also of asking forgiveness from ourselves for having to live a life that is less than

## HIGH HOLY DAYS SERVICES

Saturday, September 26, 12 midnight  
Selihot ("Forgiveness") Service, at the home of Rabbi Allen B. Bennett, 1650 Page Street, San Francisco.

The following services will take place at the Jewish Community Center, 3200 California Street (at Presidio), San Francisco:

Monday, September 28, 8 p.m.  
Tuesday, September 29, 10 a.m.  
Wednesday, October 7, 8 p.m. (Kol Nidre)  
Thursday, October 8, 10 a.m.



## SPEAKERS SOUGHT

The Lesbian and Gay Speaker's Bureau in the San Francisco Unified School District is looking for speakers. Especially needed are young, older, Jewish and Third World people. Call 564-2509.



## ONEG, LTD.

I have great hopes for our coming year and ask all interested persons to join the Oneg Committee. Help us make Shabbat a joy and the High Holidays special. To become involved, call me at 776-1289 after 7 p.m.

- David Ben-Jacob

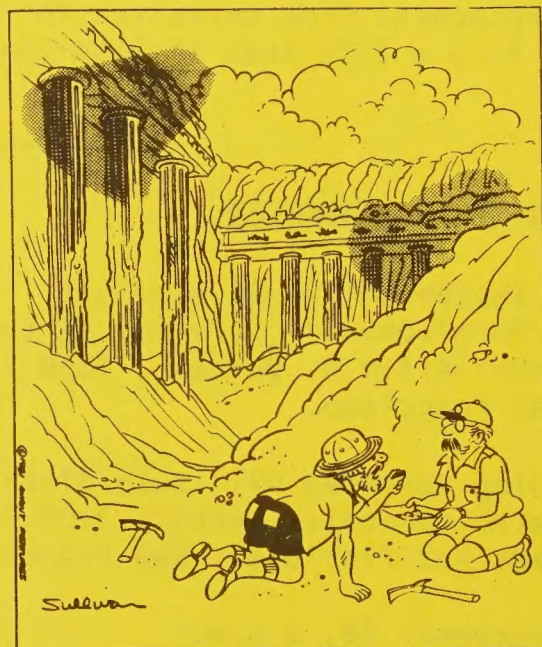
### AUGUST ONEGS

- August 7 by Ron Lezell, in honor of John's birthday
- August 14 by Cheryl Orvis and Paul Cohen for the initiation of officers
- August 21 by Bruce O'Connell, for everyone's enjoyment
- August 28 by the Congregation, for everyone's enjoyment



## THEY'RE RECRUITING US!

Lesbians and gay men are encouraged to apply for jobs with the San Francisco Sheriff's Department, according to Les Morgan, coordinator of the Gay Outreach Program, a privately-funded volunteer community group. The SFSD will give entrance-level tests soon. No previous experience is required, there is no residency requirement, and the maximum age is sixty. Deputies make about \$20,000 per year. Duties include running the city jails as well as other security and civic functions. No street patrol is involved. Potential applicants can contact the Sheriff's Department at 558-5194, and may call Gay Outreach for information on special support services for lesbian and gay applicants.



'Apparently it was a religious temple! These are Bingo markers.'



# September

ELUL—TISHREI תשרי—חשוון

First Quarter  
Sixth  
Full Moon  
Fourteenth

Last Quarter  
Twentieth  
New Moon  
Twenty-eighth

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> א' ELUL 2	<b>2</b> ב' ELUL 3	<b>3</b> ג' ELUL 4	<b>4</b> ד' ELUL 5 Services 8:15pm Michael Freedland	<b>5</b> ה' ELUL 6 שופטים Shoftim Pent. Deut. 16:18–21:9. Pr. Is. 51:12–52:12.
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> ו' ELUL 7 Labor Day	<b>8</b> ז' ELUL 8	<b>9</b> ח' ELUL 9	<b>10</b> ט' ELUL 10 Newsletter Deadline	<b>11</b> י' ELUL 11 Services 8:15pm Daniel Chesir	<b>12</b> יא' ELUL 12 Vai'ad "Advance" כי תצו Ki Teze Pent. Deut. 21:10–25:19. Pr. Is. 54:1–10.
<b>13</b> יב' ELUL 13 Vai'ad "Advance"	<b>14</b> יג' ELUL 14	<b>15</b> יד' ELUL 15	<b>16</b> טו' ELUL 16 Newsletter Committee Meeting 6:21–6:28	<b>17</b> טז' ELUL 17	<b>18</b> יז' ELUL 18 Services 8:15pm Laurie Radovsky	<b>19</b> יח' ELUL 19 כי תבא Ki Tavo Pent. Deut. 26:1–29:8. Pr. Is. 60:1–22.
<b>20</b> יט' ELUL 20	<b>21</b> כ' ELUL 21	<b>22</b> כא' ELUL 22	<b>23</b> כב' ELUL 23	<b>24</b> כג' ELUL 24	<b>25</b> כד' ELUL 25 Services 8:15pm Rabbi Alken Bennett	<b>26</b> כה' ELUL 26 Selihot Service נצבים Nizavim Pent. Deut. 29:9–30:20. Pr. Is. 61:10–63:9.
<b>27</b> כו' ELUL 27	<b>28</b> כז' ELUL 28 ערב ראש השנה Erev Rosh Hashana Eve of New Year	<b>29</b> כח' ELUL 29 ראש השנה Rosh Hashana New Year of 5742 Shofar is sounded	<b>30</b> כט' TISHREI 30 ב' דראש השנה Second Day Rosh Hashana Shofar is sounded			
<b>28</b> כז' ELUL 28						
<b>29</b> כח' ELUL 29						
<b>30</b> כט' ELUL 30						



## RITUAL CALENDAR

Sept. 4	<u>Shoftim</u>	Deut. 16:18 - 21:9 Isaiah 51:12 - 52:12 Michael Freedland
Sept. 11	<u>Ki Teze</u>	Deut. 21:10 - 25:19 Isaiah 54:1 - 10 Daniel Chesir
Sept. 18	<u>Ki Tavo</u>	Deut. 26:1 - 29:8 Isaiah 60:1 - 22 Laurie Radovsky
Sept. 25	<u>Nizavim</u>	Deut. 29:9 - 30:20 Isaiah 61:10 - 63:9 Rosh Chodesh Tishri Rabbi Allen B. Bennett
Saturday, Sept. 26	Selihot ("Forgiveness") Service	12:00 midnight Home of Rabbi Allen B. Bennett 1650 Page Street, San Francisco
Monday, Sept. 28	Erev Rosh Hashana 5742	Services at 8:00 p.m. Jewish Community Center
Tuesday, Sept. 29	Rosh Hashana First Day	New Year of 5742 Shofar to be sounded Services at 10:00 a.m. Jewish Community Center

## BIRTHDAYS

Tom Rothgeisser	September 1
Hy Rifkin	September 2
Catherine Nelson	September 5
Richard Marks	September 6
Al Baum	September 7
Harold Lipshaw	September 7
Bruce Goff	September 9
Elliot Schneck	September 15
Rob Tat	September 19
Jeff Mendelsohn	September 21
Laurie Radovsky	September 21
Ralph Vissell	September 27

## YAHRZEITS

Arthur Parker, father of Harold Parker	September 1
Lillian Schrager, mother of Alan Schrager	September 5
Charles Nelson, father of Catherine Nelson	17 Elul
Joseph Petry, brother of John Petry	September 21
Frances Cohen, sister of Bernard Pechter	28 Elul

## ARTS PROGRAM

Jeff Oboler, director of the Martin Steinberg Center for the Arts in New York City, will speak on "Expressing Judaism through the Arts" on Friday, September 11 at 12 noon at the Jewish Welfare Federation, 254 Sutter Street, sixth floor. Bring your lunch and participate in the discussion. Admission is free.

## DONATIONS

George Ash  
H. Cohen  
Stanley Gass  
J. Golebowski  
Renee Lipschutz  
A. G. Beauregard Lowell, IV  
Budget Sign Shop

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<p>If you're moving, please allow six weeks for processing time.</p>	<p>Attach current address label here.</p>
<p><b>NEW ADDRESS:</b></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____</p>	<p><b>Mail to:</b></p> <p>Sha'ar Zahav P.O. Box 5640 S.F. CA 94101</p>

